entered into a contract with COSMOS International Satellitenstart GmbH, Germany in January 2004, to launch a scientific satellite "AGILE" belonging to the Italian Space Agency. The Satellite will weigh about 350 Kgs. and will be required to be placed in a near equatorial orbit at a height of about 550 klilometers with a specified accuracy, using Indian Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle from Sriharikota launch site. The launch is expected to take place towards the end of 2005 or beginning of 2006. The satellite is being built by an associate of COSMOS International Satellitenstart GmbH, Germany.

Implementation of Poverty Alleviation Programme

†1839. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the target of poverty alleviation from the country can not be achieved merely by investing money in Plan implementation;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto;

(c) whether Government have taken any action to make Plan implementation effective by improving the administration; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. It is a fact that the target of poverty alleviation can not be achieved merely by investing money in plan implementation. The reduction of poverty depends on a wide variety of factors, of which the government's anti-poverty plans and programmes are only one component. The Government has, therefore, adopted a three pronged strategy for reducing poverty; (i) acceleration of economic growth with a focus on sectors which are employment intensive (ii) human and social development through provision of basic minimum services; and (iii) targeted anti-poverty programmes.

(c) and (d) Government has taken action to alleviate poverty in rural and urban areas and to improve implementation.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

With effect from June, 1997 the Public Distribution System (PDS) in India was streamlined by issuing special cards to families Below Poverty Line (BPL) and selling foodgrains under PDS to them at specially subsidised prices which was about 50% of the economic costs. Under the new scheme, *viz.*, the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) each poor family is entitled to 35 Kgs. of foodgrains.

In order to make the TPDS more focused and targeted towards the very poor category, the "Antyodaya Anna Yojana" provides 35 kgs of foodgrains to the poorest of the poor families at a highly subsidized rate of Rs. 2 per kg., for wheat and Rs. 3 per kg., for rice. In the recent budget presented on 28-02-05 it was announced that the coverage of Antyodaya Anna Yojana will be increased from 2.0 crore (BPL) families to 2.5 crore families in 2005.

Rural Areas

The major rural poverty alleviation programmes which are in operation are Swaranjayati Gram Swarozar Yojana (SGSY), Sampoorna Grameen Rozgar Yojana (SGRY) and Rural Housing-Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY), National Food for Work Programme

- The objective of the SGSY is to bring the assisted poor families (Swarozgaries) above the poverty line by organizing them into Self Help Groups (SHGS) through the process of social mobilization, their training and capacity building and provision of income generating assets through a mix of Bank credit and Government subsidy.

- The primary objective of the SGRY scheme is to provide additional wage employment in all rural areas and thereby provide food security and improve nutritional levels. The secondary objective is the creation of durable community, social and economic assets and infrastructural development in rural areas. The SGRY is open to all rural poor who are in need wage employment and desired to do manual and unskilled work in and around the village/habitat.

- The Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY) is the major scheme for construction of houses to be given to the poor, free of cost. It has an additional component, namely, conversion of unserviceable kutcha houses to semi pucca houses.

- The National Food for Work Programme has the objective to provide additional resources to 150 most backward districts of the country so that generation of supplementary wage employment and provision of food security through creation of need based economic, social and community assets in these districts is further intensified. Foodgrains are provided to the States free of cost. Works are taken up under the programme in accordance with the Five Year Perspective Plan. The collector is responsible for preparation of the Perspective Plan and programme implementation.

Urban Areas

- The Poverty Alleviation Programme which seeks to provide gainful employment to the urban unemployed or under-employed poor through encouraging the setting up of self-employment ventures or provision of wage employment is Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY). The programme targets the urban poor, defined as those living Below the Poverty Line, as defined from time to time. This programme relies on creation of suitable community structures and delivery of inputs is through the medium of urban local bodies and such community structure. It is funded on at 75:25 basis between Centre and the States. The Programme is applicable to all urban towns in India. The Programme is implemented on a whole town basis with special emphasis on urban poor clusters.

The implementing Ministries have systems of monitoring through mechanisms such as periodic progress reports, inspection by Government officials, Areas-Officers' scheme, Performance Review Committees etc. In addition, regular impact assessment studies and evaluations of specific schemes are also undertaken. Further, the release of funds is subject to receipt of Utilisation Certificates and Audit Reports. Based on programme evaluation and review, the schemes have been restructured and redesigned from time to time.

IHF criteria in selection of coaches and players

1840. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that current actions of IHF has made a laughing stock to our country's hockey;